**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**
**(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)**
**International file number PCT/EP2004/053350**

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**Re Point V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

   D1: EP-A-0 689 167 (CANON, KABUSHIKI KAISHA) December 27, 1995 (1995-12-27)

   D2: DE 199 32 520 A1 (HIRSCHMANN AUSTRIA GMBH, RANKWEIL; GANTNER ELECTRONIC GMBH, SCHRUNS) February 1, 2001 (2001-02-01)

   D3: DEVY M. ET AL.: "Detection and classification of passenger seat occupancy using stereovision", INTELLIGENT VEHICLES SYMPOSIUM, 2000. IV 2000. PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE, DEARBORN, MI, USA October 3-5, 2000. PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, US, October 3, 2000 (2000-10-03), pages 714-719, XP010529022 ISBN: 0-7803-6363-92.

2. Document D1 is regarded as the most proximate related art to the object of Claim 1. D1 discloses (the references in parentheses refer to this document):
   a method for entering a three-dimensional position of characterizing points of an object, by entering pixels in two stereo images which are intended to correspond to a joint characterizing point (see abstract).
   It is true that the model generated via this method could be used to classify an object as described in Claim 1; however, D1 does not mention an application of that kind.

 EV 839 763 460 US.

3. D2 and D3 describe object classification methods in which spatial coordinates of surfaces are determined from stereo images and are compared with three-dimensional models. These methods use object models which are independent of the position and/or distance of the detected object relative to the stereo camera.

3.1 Because the method set forth in Claim 1 does not require any processing-intensive estimates of depth values, less sophisticated hardware than in the related art may be used.

4. For this reason, the object of Claim 1 is novel and is based on an inventive step (Article 33, PCT). Because the method set forth in the description in particular may be used in video-based classification of seat occupancy in a motor vehicle, the method obviously also has industrial applicability.

5. Claims 2 through 5 are dependent on Claim 1 and thus also meet the PCT requirements with regard to novelty and inventive step.